

REMARKS

This responds to the Office Action mailed on March 27, 2006. No claims are amended or cancelled. Claims 1-21 remain pending in this application.

§103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1-21 were under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over various combinations of DuPre' et al. (U.S. 5,880,925) in view of Greenwood et al. (U.S. 6,751,087), further including other patents in selected 35 USC § 103(a) rejections. Applicant respectfully transgresses the rejection for at least the following reasons.

The pending Office Action states that “DuPre' et al. lacks a plurality of terminals, wherein multiple first polarity connections are coupled to a single first polarity terminal and corresponding multiple second polarity connections are coupled to multiple second polarity terminals.” The pending rejections further state that Greenwood et al. teach “a plurality of terminals (Figures 1, and 3a-3b), wherein multiple first polarity connections (101) are coupled to a single first polarity terminal and corresponding multiple second polarity connections (102) are coupled to multiple second polarity terminals (figures 1, and 3a-3b).” Applicant agrees with these assessments of the applied references.

Greenwood (6,590,762) appears to show a single first “electrical terminal 101” and a single “second electrical terminal 102” (column 2, lines 44-48). Figures 3a and 3b appear to show multiple negative terminals 303 and multiple positive terminals 304. However, Applicant is unable to find in Greenwood (6,590,762) a plurality of terminals, wherein *multiple* first polarity connections are coupled to a *single* first polarity terminal and corresponding *multiple* second polarity connections are coupled to *multiple* second polarity terminals.

As stated above, Applicant does not agree with the characterization of first and second polarity connections in the present Office Action. Nevertheless, assume for the sake of argument that Figures 3a and 3b of Greenwood (6,590,762) show multiple second polarity connections coupled to multiple second polarity terminals. *Applicant notes that first polarity connections and second polarity connections appear to be the same in Greenwood as illustrated in Figure 1 and Figures 3a and 3b.*

Therefore if Greenwood shows multiple second polarity connections coupled to multiple second polarity terminals, then Greenwood also shows multiple first polarity connections coupled to multiple first polarity terminals. In the same way, if for the sake of argument, Greenwood shows multiple second polarity connections coupled to a single second polarity terminal, then Greenwood also shows multiple first polarity connections coupled to a single first polarity terminal.

In contrast, claim 1 includes a plurality of terminals, wherein multiple first polarity connections are coupled to a single first polarity terminal and corresponding multiple second polarity connections are coupled to multiple second polarity terminals.

Because the cited references, either alone or in combination, do not show every element of claim 1, a 35 USC § 103(a) rejection is not supported by the references. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested with respect to claim 1. Additionally, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested with respect to the remaining claims that depend from claim 1 as depending on an allowable base claim.

Claim 18 was rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuroda et al. (U.S. 6,351,369) in view of DuPre' et al. (U.S. 5,880,925) and Greenwood. Applicant respectfully submits that the additional references of Kuroda and Hanson fail to cure the rejection based on DuPre' and Greenwood for at least the reasons outlined above.

Similar to claim 1 as discussed above, independent claim 18 includes a plurality of terminals, wherein multiple first polarity connections are coupled to a single first polarity terminal and corresponding multiple second polarity connections are coupled to multiple second polarity terminals.

For at least the reasons discussed under claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 18 is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested with respect to claim 18. Likewise, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested with respect to the remaining claims that depend from claim 18 as depending on an allowable base claim.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney at (612) 373-6944 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

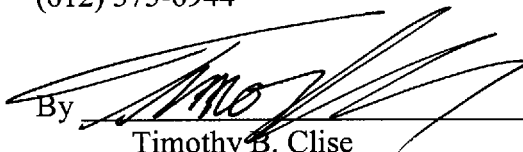
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30 May '06

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Name

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Signature

